

JORDAN HOUSE  
(City Library)  
Ellsworth, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District Of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Josiah T. Fussy, District Officer  
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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JORDAN HOUSE  
("CITY LIBRARY")

Hancock County, Ellsworth, Maine

Present Owners

City of Ellsworth

Date of Erection

1817

Builder

Colonel Meltiah Jordan

Present Condition

It is believed that the front porch was added after the house was built. Some alterations were made on the interior when the house was purchased for a library.

Description

The library is a rectangular frame building two stories high with a central front entrance. The roof is low, -hipped, with a small octagonal tower in the center. There is an attractive eaves balustrade. A notable feature is the fine Palladian window at the easterly end of the building.

On the interior, there are broad arched doorways and several mantels of fine design.

Additional Data

Marion J. Wyman, Librarian, gives the following information about the building. "The Public Library was built by Colonel Meltiah Jordan in 1817 as a residence for his son, Benjamin. At that time the plan of the building was somewhat different from the present form. Colonel Jordan was the great great grandson of the Rev. Robert Jordan, a clergyman of the Church of England, and a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, "The first clergyman to make a distinct career in Maine."

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Some years later, Mr. Seth Tisdale, a carpenter and contractor, who came to Ellsworth, purchased and remodelled the Benjamin Jordan house, and in 1897 Mr. George Nixon Black bought this beautiful old house, fitted it for a library and gave it to the Town of Ellsworth. About this time, Mr. Zachariah Jellison of New York, who was born in the house erected by his father opposite the Congregational Church, founded the Jellison Fund for the Library.

*Eleanor E. Jannell*

Approved:

*Zach. J. Tubby*

September 27, 1927

*THW*  
*10/9/37*